

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910137101903321
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Titolo	Literature matters // J. Hillis Miller ; edited by Monika Reif-Hülser
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Open Humanities Press, 2016 London, England : , : Open Humanities Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	9781785420351 (ebook) 9781785420344 (paperback)
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (171 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Open Access e-Books Knowledge Unlatched
Disciplina	801.3
Soggetti	Literature - History and criticism Literature - Philosophy Literature and society
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- I. Cold heaven, cold comfort: should we read or teach literature now? -- II. Should we read literature now, and, if so, how? Transgressing boundaries with Iser and Coetzee -- III. A defense of literature and literary study in a time of globalization and the new tele-technologies -- IV. Ecotechnics: ecotechnological Odradek -- V. Theories of community: Nancy Contra Stevens -- VI. Globalization and world literature -- Permissions.
Sommario/riassunto	This new collection of J. Hillis Miller's essays centres on the question "why and to what end should we read, teach, and spend our time with literary and/or cultural studies?" At a time when electronic media seem to dominate the market completely, and jobs follow the money flows into electronic and technical fields, literary and cultural studies might appear as a decorative addenda but not really necessary for the process of growth and development, neither in business nor in the area of personal development. This question is not really new, it has many facets, requires differentiated answers which depend and mirror the political and cultural climate of a society.

